Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 11 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Friday 11 Dec 2020 at 02:50

Confidence: High for generally unsettled and mostly mild conditions throughout, lower for details with regard to cloud and timings of the various rain bands.

Headline for Friday 11 Dec 2020: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain turning more showery this afternoon. Winds easing.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 11 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Light rain	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
60%	60%	40%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Friday 11 Dec 2020

Weather: A cloudy morning with rain and drizzle at times, and especially at first, some higher summit wintriness, these becoming patchier towards midday. The rain turns more showery through the afternoon with some late brighter spells possible. Occasional showers and a few clear spells expected through the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning with periods or persistent cloud above 450m and patches below, although nearer 40% in the north and, during the afternoon, elsewhere with cloud occasional or periods above 600m.

Visibility: Just a few kilometres in rain and drizzle, perhaps a kilometre in any summit wintriness, otherwise mainly good

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Forecast for Friday 11 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	17/20 SE	16/20 SE	12/16 SE	8/10 SE	6/8 SE	5/7 E	6/7 SE
600	17/22 SE	16/21 SE	12/17 SE	6/9 SE	5/7 SE	5/6 S	5/6 SW
300	5/16 SE	7/16 SE	7/13 S	4/7 SE	4/6 SE	3/5 S	2/6 S
Valley	6/16 SE	6/15 SE	5/11 SE	3/7 E	2/5 SE	2/5 E	2/5 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-2	3/-1	4/-1	3/-0	3/0	2/0	2/-0
600	4/-0	5/0	5/1	5/2	4/2	4/2	4/2
300	6/4	6/4	7/4	6/5	6/5	6/5	5/4
Valley	7/5	8/6	8/7	8/7	7/7	7/7	7/6
Freezing Level*	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Weather: Rather cloudy overnight with one or two showers around, perhaps some clearer spells in the north. Then a cloudy morning with outbreaks of rain developing, perhaps the odd heavier burst across southern fells, with a little sleet or wet snow on higher summits. The rain gradually clears during the afternoon with a few bright or sunny spells developing.

Maximum wind: Variable 10mph or less.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning and early afternoon with periods or persistent cloud above 450m lowering to 300m or less at times, improving to 25% from the west during the afternoon with cloud lifting and breaking a little with bases 600m. Chances improve considerably during the evening.

Visibility: Good falling to just a few kilometres in rain and drizzle, perhaps a kilometre in any summit wintriness

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 5 Celsius overnight rising to plus 9 Celsius by day.
At 800m: Around plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 10 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:15

A challenging day on the hill with poor visibility and rain on the summits. The main feature of today was the strong and gusty wind. From a dead calm to 50mph+ gusts in a few seconds, enough to knock you off balance, usually at the most inopportune moment! The slow thaw continues at all heights with patchy snow starting at around 500m and the cover increasing with altitude. From 700m most slopes had a good covering. Generally the snow pack is soft and wet however where it has been compressed by walkers feet it is hard and icy and proving more resistant to the thaw. The easiest routes on Striding and Swirral Edges are still predominately on this hard icy snow so they are a far more serious proposition than other conditions on the mountain might suggest. An ice axe coupled with microspikes as a minimum or preferably crampons are essential kit for anyone tackling these classic mountaineering routes or indeed any other steeper terrain. Descending the ridges was also a lot trickier than the climb today. The Helvellyn plateau is still looking pretty white with only a few rocks protruding. Underfoot you will find a mixture of ice, rime and wind scoured snow. There were still some good rime ice formations above 900m and small cornices and flutings have developed along the top of the east face. Visibility was less than 10m and coupled with the snow cover made navigation very tricky.

Full winter clothing and equipment are currently required on the Lake District fells. Temperatures around freezing with a wet snowpack and strong winds are the perfect recipe for hypothermia. Above 700m it's recommended that everyone carries an ice axe and microspikes or crampons as a small drop in temperature will quickly refreeze the saturated snowpack giving serious and committing conditions. Climbers: Soft snow, turf and a freezing level above the summits mean there are currently no routes in condition :(.Temperature: plus 0.3C. Maximum wind speed 50.2mph. Wind chill: minus 9.7C. Average wind speed: 37.2mph.

Issued at: 02:50 on Fri 11 Dec 2020

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